

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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STATE ATTN: S/NM
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: LIAISON VISIT WITH MOROCCAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT
OFFICIALS BY GIBRALTAR CUSTOMS.

1. ON DEC 9 AND 10, RABAT DEA REP HIGDON ACCOMPANIED
GIBRALTAR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS JOE RICHARDSON AND HENRY SMART
ON SUCCESSFUL INFORMAL LIAISON TALKS WITH HEAD OF MOROCCAN
CUSTOMS AND JUDICIARY POLICE.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETINGS WITH MOROCCANS WERE
MADE BY DEA OFFICE AT REQUEST OF GIBRALTAR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
AND WITH APPROVAL OF UK EMBASSY HERE. GIBRALTAR OFFICIALS
HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFULLY SEEKING WORKING RELATIONS WITH
MOROCCAN COUNTERPARTS FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

3. GIBRALTAR OFFICIALS CONFIDED TO DEA RABAT THAT THE
4,000 MAN MOROCCAN LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED IN GIBRALTAR AND
CLOSE PROXIMITY OF GIBRALTAR TO MOROCCO HAS CREATED MANY
PROBLEMS FOR WHICH SOLUTIONS COULD BE FOUND ONLY THROUGH
DIRECT CONTACT WITH MOROCCAN ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.
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IN VIEW OF DEA'S COMPATIBLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
MOROCCAN POLICE AND CUSTOMS CONTACTS, GIBRALTAR CUSTOMS
DEEMED DEA TO BE THE MOST PROMISING AVENUE OF
APPROACH. THIS VIEW WAS OBVIOUSLY SHARED BY GIBRALTAR'S
DEPUTY GOVERNOR, E.H. DAVIS, WHO APPROVED AND
MADE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE, FOR

THE TRAVEL.

4. DURING COURSE OF MEETINGS, BOTH MOROCCAN POLICE
AND CUSTOMS EXTENDED WARM HOSPITALITY TO RICHARDSON
AND SMART. AMONG MOST NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE:

A) GIBRALTAR CUSTOMS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT TO
DEAL DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON WITH
HEAD OF CUSTOMS IN TANGIER AHMED HAMZO ON ALL
CUSTOMS MATTERS WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN HQS
APPROVAL FROM CASABLANCA.

B) MOROCCAN CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE INVITED
TO GIBRALTAR FOR FULL BRIEFING RE: VALUE ASSESSMENT,
BONDING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CUSTOMS PROCEDURES.

C) MOROCCAN POLICE PROVIDED GIBRALTAR CUSTOMS WITH
PERMISSION AND PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIRECT
CONTACT VIA TELEX WITH POLICE HQS RABAT.

5. THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETINGS DEMONSTRATES HEADWAY
MADE BY DEA IN SOLICITING COOPERATION OF MOROCCAN
AUTHORITIES, AND REFLECTS MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON
PART OF MOROCCANS TOWARD COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN
COUNTERPARTS IN GENERAL.

6. RICHARDSON AND SMART REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THANKS
FOR THE ASSISTANCE THEY HAD RECEIVED AS WELL AS PROMISE
THAT SERVICES RENDERED WOULD NOT BE SOON FORGOTTEN
ANDERSON
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